

## REVIEWS

*Sir Arnold Lunn on Geoffrey Winthrop Young* (*Mountain World*, April 1961; *A. J.* 66. 100).

SIR ARNOLD LUNN paid a graceful tribute to the memory of Geoffrey Winthrop Young by writing an essay about him. When he spoke from it at the Alpine Club last year, those who heard him were, as they expected, well entertained, interested, amused and occasionally irritated by a characteristically personal talk containing plenty of Lunn as well as Young. It is good that the full paper now appears in the *Alpine Journal*. All will be grateful that Sir Arnold's moving description of Young's last address to the Alpine Club is on permanent record in these pages.

The paper is all the more interesting for not being an uncritical eulogy. Nevertheless, while Sir Arnold gives generous expression to his admiration and affection for Young, many will feel some anxiety as to the justice of the picture of him which this paper may suggest to those who turn to it expecting a full and authoritative assessment. It is not only that so much space is devoted to criticism, or even that some of the criticisms are debatable; what is chiefly disquieting is that the paper does not adequately bring out the full stature which Geoffrey Winthrop Young attained in British mountaineering, especially in the eyes of climbers of younger generations. It must be difficult for someone who knew him so long as did Sir Arnold to understand or quite to credit the aura which surrounded Young in his later years. 'One of the mountaineers', this paper begins, 'who are tacitly accepted as the most representative climbers of a particular epoch.' That certainly, but surely much more than that. For many of us he was, and remains, *the* representative climber, not just of his epoch, but permanently, of much that is best in mountaineering. Sir Claude Elliott wrote in his obituary notice (*A. J.* 64. 113) that his name should be added to the list of 'Mountain Prophets' of whom he had himself written (*A. J.* 54. 97); for many, the last is the greatest of the prophets, the symbol and the measure of them all.

There were many reasons for Young's unique status—his own climbing record, his innumerable friendships with climbers of all ages, his gift for talk and correspondence, the Pen-y-Pass parties, the lectures, addresses and after-dinner speeches—but, as Sir Arnold says, much of his fame came from his books and it is these which will preserve it. It will indeed be an enrichment of Alpine literature if Sir Arnold can add to them by securing the publication of a collection

of his contributions to periodicals which are now inaccessible. Some of Young's finest writing is in obituary notices in the *Alpine Journal*, in which as in the vignettes which animate his historical pieces he displayed his delightful gift of verbal portraiture.

Many would share Sir Arnold's interest in comparing with *On High Hills* the earlier versions of material rewritten for that book; whether they would follow him in preferring them is more doubtful. The style and vocabulary of the other books is plainer, but in *On High Hills* the grounds for the criticism of overwriting are obvious: the original reviewer in the *Alpine Journal* (*A.J.* 39. 174) justly remarked that Young 'seldom uses the obvious word if a better, or sometimes even if a worse, one is available'. But is not the elaboration, the overwriting if you like, all part of the fun, for writer and reader alike? The style is not to everyone's taste, and to some degree it is an esoteric book, but for those who like it, one of the unique qualities of *On High Hills* is its re-readability. The elaboration has much to do with this: however often one returns to it, there are always new ingenuities of phrase to be explored, new glints of meaning to be caught. Young wrote in the foreword that it was 'intended to be dipped into as an occasional fireside distraction.' The same reviewer ended by saying that he would 'continue to "dip in" off and on for the rest of his life.' Many mountaineers would gratefully echo those words.

For many of us *On High Hills* is the favourite among all mountain books, but at least as important a factor in Young's prestige was *Mountain Craft*, which he edited and of which he wrote the most important and enduring chapters. The few references in Sir Arnold's paper scarcely do justice to the influence which this book has had on climbing technique and practice in the last forty years, to the penetrating and at the time largely original analysis which went into it, or to the achievement of organising such massive material into a coherent whole which can be read for pleasure as well as instruction.

Sir Arnold's discussion of the attitude to war of Young and Young's liberal friends fifty years ago is of much interest, authenticated as it is by his admission that at the time he shared their views as he shared their company. But he appears to suggest that not only in 1912 but for the rest of his life Young illustrated the thesis that 'this sense of inferiority perhaps explains the determination to belittle or even to ignore the great qualities which war tests'. This is surely unwarranted. The passage quoted as evidence from the end of *On High Hills*, about the bombardment of Ypres, is one with which most people would sympathise. Recognition of the misery and squalor and waste of war neither implies underrating of the qualities it evokes nor the belief that the bullet is never required to defend the right to the ballot. Young's own war record, with nine decorations from four countries

for gallantry, disposes of any question of a sense of inferiority; as for belittlement, what of the war chapters of *The Grace of Forgetting*? Or the tribute to the fallen spoken on Great Gable: 'In token that their sacrifice bears witness still, beyond death, to the imperishable ideal of spiritual liberty, we commit today, not in bronze but in unalterable faith, our thought of their triumph in the spirit to these spaces of power and light' (quoted in *Mountains with a Difference*, p. 150)? Or, most forthright, the opening words of the speech Young made as President of the Alpine Club at the christening of the ketch *Garibaldi* at the Outward Bound Sea School in 1943: 'Twice in a lifetime we have seen war produce in quite ordinary men and women heroic qualities of courage, endurance and self-sacrifice and make permanently better citizens of those whom it did not destroy'?

Sir Arnold is on stronger ground when he criticises Young's more mystical passages. It is true that these are sometimes obscure. But 'les poètes ne pensent pas' is not quite fair. Young was deeply interested in the psychological response to mountains and mountaineering and exerted much effort in examining it. When Sir Arnold says that his analysis is inadequate, the burden of his criticism is less that it was inadequate as far as Young chose to take it, than that he did not attempt to take it far into the realms of philosophy or religion. Whether a mountaineering book is an appropriate place for this is arguable: Young thought that it was not, and many would sympathise with him.

Young was inclined to generalise his own very complex and advanced reaction to mountains and to seem to believe that the same reaction must be common to all right-thinking mountaineers. It is probably rarer than he thought, and those who do not share it are not to be regarded as less worthy than those who do, either as mountaineers or as men. But Young wrote on this theme so impressively that many have been persuaded that they ought to feel like that, and simpler souls have felt outclassed, both in thought and in language. In 'Courage, and Mountain Writing' (*The Mountain World*, 1955) Young criticised the silence of modern books and journals on the third of the three strands of the foreword to *On High Hills*, 'the things we are feeling!' It is a pertinent criticism, but Young was too modest to recognise one part of the explanation: the level of his own writing has made others shy to emulate what they could not equal. Moreover, it is difficult now to say anything new. In the famous paper on 'Alpine Humour' (*A.J.* 25. 127) Charles Donald Robertson, whose abilities and charm are vividly commemorated in Young's writings, castigated the staleness of Alpine jokes and pleaded for an account of the emotions, which 'are different for each one of us'. After a further fifty years the more usual emotions are becoming as hackneyed as the jokes of 1910.

Although Sir Arnold's paper is mainly concerned with Young's

writings, it would have been interesting if it had included more discussion of his actual climbing, of its enthusiasm, boldness and speed (how often in *On High Hills* a sly sentence records how remarkably fast they went). In referring to technical standards it is perhaps a little misleading to quote the original assessment of the Mer de Glace face of the Grépon without pointing out that it was written before the discovery by Franz Lochmatter of the alternative now always taken to the axe-nicking slab. In the light of that discovery Young wrote in *On High Hills*: 'The whole ascent will, I hope, often be repeated; now that the horrific slab has been eliminated there is no finer rock climb in the Alps. Knubel's crack will yield, each time more readily, to longer arms; and our first estimate will, of course, be progressively reduced. But I have little fear that the applause with which we acclaimed the first passage will ever be thought exaggerated—by those at least who "lead" the crack themselves.' That opinion can stand today.

One wishes too that Sir Arnold had given us more of Young's humour, of the amused and amusing talk, to which he refers, and the light verse. It was a quality which survived triumphantly in Young throughout his long life, through the death in the mountains or in war of many of his closest friends, through the loss of his leg, and through the final adversity of illness in old age. When at the end of *Mountains with a Difference* (p. 251) he recalled his last climb on the Rothorn and his retrospect on the summit of forty years' mountaineering, *the fun of it* was what he put first. With all his other qualities and achievements, it is as the apostle of the fun of mountaineering that Geoffrey Winthrop Young may be most happily remembered.

A. K. RAWLINSON.

*Der dritte Pol.* By G. O. Dyhrenfurth. Pp. 263. 35 illustrations. 16 maps. Nymphenburger Verlagshandlung, München. 1960. Price DM. 28.

NINE years have elapsed since Dr. Dyhrenfurth published his *Zum dritten Pol*, a book about the fourteen 8,000-m. peaks. At that time only one of these giant mountains had been climbed, Annapurna I; today, Shisha Pangma, barred for political reasons, is the only virgin eight-thousander. It was time for the story to be brought up to date and Dr. Dyhrenfurth's new book is very welcome; it should be in the possession of all who are interested, in any way, in the world's highest mountains.

The 'Third Pole' having now been attained, the title of the book differs slightly from that of the earlier volume and the sub-title, *Die Achttausender und ihre Trabanten*, indicates that we have something more than a mere revision of an earlier edition. Dr. Dyhrenfurth includes not only the eight-thousanders and seven-thousanders but other great mountains as well. A brief survey is given of the early expeditions and those made since 1952 are described in greater detail.

The leader of the British expedition to Masherbrum in 1938 was James Waller, and not as stated on p. 169.

In his preface Dr. Dyhrenfurth mentions that certain authorities consider that the spelling of some Tibetan names needs to be reformed and so we find a few changes; Rongbuk has become Rongphu, and Thyangboche is now Tengpoche, to give only two examples. In the author's opinion the Tibetans are even more conservative than the British; it will be noted with satisfaction by the conservative British that so distinguished a *Himalayamann* as Dr. Dyhrenfurth uses Lho La to designate the pass leading from the Khumbu to the Rongbuk—or should we write Rongphu?—glacier.

In addition to the many illustrations and maps, there are useful sketches of Kangchenjunga, Manaslu, and Annapurna I showing in each case the route of the first ascent—we wish that similar diagrams could have been provided for at least some of the other mountains. A geological survey of the relevant mountain group is provided at the end of each chapter and an extensive bibliography lists well over three hundred items. Finally, there is a detailed table of the first ascents of the 7,000 m. and 8,000 m. peaks. The delightful legend that the Americans made the first ascent of Hidden Peak on Independence Day is unfortunately given a new lease of life on p. 222, though the correct date is given on p. 189.

This book is a notable addition to Himalayan literature and deserves a wide circulation. We hope that Dr. Dyhrenfurth has made, or will make, arrangements to give us an English edition at an early date.

D. F. O. DANGAR.

*Poems.* By Wilfrid Noyce. Pp. 100. Heinemann, London, 1960. Price 15s. THERE are some very pleasant poems here. The best are the Everest ones where Wilfrid Noyce's reflections, snatched in moments of rest, come over with an almost Chinese simplicity. Here is the beginning of 'Swiss Tents on the South Col'.

Great hill above  
and cloud below;  
cold to our love  
the fast winds blow.  
But all between,  
grey space and dead,  
spirits unseen  
have made their bed  
in black rock-rift,  
in ice rubbed bare. . . .

There are some delightful translations at the back. I like especially his 'Night' from the Greek by Alcman.

There are weaknesses. Sometimes, when a powerful effect is intended, powerful words are mobilised only to fall short. The poem on Machapuchare shows this.

A monster torn out of the womb of ages,  
a rock-bound sheath flaunting a blade of snow,  
a cloud bent over, a mass hoisted from ocean,  
a man's thought homing to God from pain below—

Or am I wrong? Anyway, thank heavens we have a climber with the courage to write poetry.

ROBIN HODGKIN.

*Andinismo y Campamentos en el Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi.* Colección Alpamayo, Guía No. I, edited by Frank Memelsdorff. Mundonuevo, Buenos Aires, 1959.

This is the first of a new series of small paper-backed pocket Guides to the principal climbing and camping districts of Argentina. The Editor and authors are to be congratulated on this venture, which makes them the pioneers in what should prove to be a fertile and useful field—the provision of specialised Andean climbing Guides, on European lines, with maps, diagrams, gradings, and other essential information for the mountaineer, camper and walker. It is fitting that this first Guide should cover the Bariloche district, whose Club Andino (which recently celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary) has done so much for the encouragement of Andean mountaineering and ski-ing, including the establishment of the first corps of professional guides in South America.

The National Park of Nahuel Huapi, with its multiplicity of lakes and dense evergreen beech forests, is one of the most beautiful regions of the Andes, and despite increasing development for tourism and winter sports, is still an unspoilt area, particularly for the camper-climber willing to undertake arduous cross-country journeys, armed with a machete as well as with a rope. A large section of the Guide describes all these routes, with good sketch-maps, and another deals with the access to the eight club huts erected at the principal centres for climbing and ski-ing. The fifth section, which is the climbers' guide proper, describes the routes on the three principal peaks: the heavily glaciated Cerro Tronador (3,470 m.), first climbed in 1934: the aiguilles of the Cerro Catedral, on which a number of short routes of IV and V difficulty have been worked out by local climbers, many of whom are of Yugo-Slav origin: and the Cerro Lopez, a large-scale Snowdon whose fine ridges and gullies provide the best general rock climbing of all. There are Appendices with advice on first aid, equipment, classification of climbs, etc.

Other Guides announced in this series will cover the Alerces National Park (El Bolsón): Córdoba: Mendoza and San Juan: the north-east of Argentina: and the Patagonian Lakes. When they are all completed, a wealth of local information should be available which at present is only recoverable with some difficulty from small club journals.

T. CROMBIE.

*Where to Climb in the British Isles.* By Edward C. Pyatt. Pp. 287, 22 illustrations, 22 maps. Faber and Faber, London, 1960. Price 20s.

Mountaineers may be surprised to learn from this book that in the United Kingdom alone there are no fewer than 1,100 heights in 44 different districts on which they can carry out their craft. Many of these, of course, are sea cliffs, outcrops of rocks and the like, but, all the same, most of them can provide good training and sport.

Mr. Pyatt gives no details of the climbs (although he does include lists of suitable guide-books) as he has had the ingenious idea that without particulars of the routes some 'climbers may return to the conditions of the pioneers'.

This is a useful and original reference book.

E. B. BEAUMAN.

*The Lötschental: A Guide for Tourists.* By the Rev. Prior J. Siegen of Kippel. pp. xi, 74. Translated by Ida M. Whitworth. Titus Wilson, Kendal, 1960. 10s. 6d.

UNTIL the advent of the Lötschberg railway, the Lötschental remained remote and isolated and, thanks to the fact that its charms are more intimate than glamorous, it is still prostituted to tourism less than most of the valleys than run down to the Rhône. It had retained a pattern of traditional life which is rapidly disappearing in the popular valleys.

For nearly seventy-five years Prior Siegen, the grandson of Joseph and the great-nephew of Johann Siegen, who in 1859 were on the first ascent of the Bietschhorn with Leslie Stephen, has lived in the Lötschental absorbing the history and the way of life of his flock. His book, with its fine photographs and informative pen and ink sketches, is not a guide: it is the distillation of his unique knowledge of his people.

I cannot do better than quote from Lady Chorley's excellent and sympathetic foreword. 'Turning over the pages one forgets the Valais of tourist hotels, even of mountaineering achievement, and feels the beat of the heart of this matchless canton: the passion for freedom of its people, their staunch self-reliance, the charity and justice which bind and energise the pooled activities of their communes.'

It is very bitter that Mrs. Whitworth, to whom the translation of Prior Siegen's book meant so much, did not live to see it published.

P. BICKNELL.

## SOME ANDEAN JOURNALS AND YEAR-BOOKS

THE development of climbing in the Andes has been well reflected in recent years by the multiplication of regional clubs, and especially by the publication of a number of excellent new journals and year-books, the chief of which can now be looked to as an established source of information both on the major international expeditions and on the dozens of lesser ascents carried out each year by local climbers throughout the range. The following summary may be of use as a record of some of the interesting material to be found in them, and which, owing to limitations of space, cannot always receive mention elsewhere in *A. J.* The language of all these publications is Spanish.

### *Argentina.*

*Anuario del Club Andino Bariloche.* This is the doyen of South American mountaineering and ski-ing journals, having been published regularly since 1932 (as a Memoria or Annual Report 1932-47, and subsequently as a Year-book). Its Editor until very recently was the distinguished Andean historian and bibliographer Señor J. F. Finó, who now lives in Paris. Contents of last available numbers include:

*No. 25 (1957):* Ascent of Mounts Sarmiento and Italia, by A. M. De Agostini; Crossing the Patagonian Ice-cap, by H. W. Tilman; The influence of variations of atmospheric pressure on acclimatisation, by H. von Diringshofen and W. Schwerdtfeger.

*Nos. 26/27 (1958):* The Third Patagonian Expedition of the C.A.B. (Cerros Paine and Balmaceda); Attempt on the West Peak of the Paine, by Carlos Sonntag.

Another principal Argentine club journal is *Montañismo* published by the Club Andino del Norte (Salta), which contains useful information on the high volcanoes of Northern Argentina and Chile.

### *Chile.*

*Revista Andina*, the organ of the Santiago section of the Club Andino de Chile, is another old-established journal with much interesting material, but it has, unfortunately, recently had to suspend publication. Its place, however, has been largely filled by the Chilean *Anuario de Montana*, the Year-book of the Federación de Andinismo de Chile, to which a member of this Club, Evelio Echevarría, is a principal contributor. The first numbers include:

*1956:* Two unknown Chilean ranges (Sierras Parendones and Punzones), and Chilean Volcanoes, by E. Echevarría; An interview with Major H. W. Tilman; Principal Chilean peaks over 6,000 metres; Principal mountain hotels and huts in Chile.

1957/58: Brief history of mountaineering in Chile, and 6,000-metre peaks of the Andes, by E. Echevarría; Expedition of the Chilean Federation to Bolivia; Chilean-Japanese Expedition to Patagonia, 1958.

1959: A modern Andean Bibliography, by E. Echevarría; Chundúa, The Italian-Chilean Expedition to the Colombian Andes, 1957, by E. Echevarría; La Cordillera Ferrosa (Nevado Juncal), by G. Jullich.

### Peru.

The publication of a Peruvian Year-book, *Revista Peruana de Andinismo* by the Club Andinista Cordillera Blanca of Huaraz, is much to be welcomed. It has excellent photographs, and covers activities in all parts of Peru. The Editor is Señor Cesar Morales Arnao, and the first editorials are in no fewer than seven languages, including Quechua and—*sapientia in excelsis*—a version in Latin! The lists of climbed and unclimbed peaks in the Cordillera Blanca and Huayhuash, with heights, are particularly useful for reference. Contents of Nos. 3 and 4 include:

1956/57: Foreign Expeditions in Peru 1956 and 1957 (an excellent brief account of every major climb, by regions). List of successful ascents in the Cordillera Blanca, with dates and names: and the same for Cordillera Huayhuash; fifty-five virgin peaks of the Cordillera Blanca, and fifty in the Huayhuash.

1958/59: Foreign Expeditions 1958 and 1959, by regions; named glaciers of the Andes; 6,000-metre peaks of the Andes (a revision of the earlier Chilean list).

### Bolivia.

The *Boletín del Club Andino Boliviano* has not been published for many years. This is a loss, as information on the Bolivian Andes is less accessible than that on Peru, and a local Year-book would be a valuable reference work. Information on the chief foreign expeditions is however, usually given in other journals.

### Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela.

There is equally little local literature on the Northern Andes, though this is less important from the expeditionary point of view. In Ecuador, the institution chiefly concerned with high mountaineering is the Club 'Nuevos Horizontes' of Quito. Colombia, rather surprisingly, has no climbing clubs. The Club Andino Venezolano at one time published a *Boletín* from its headquarters in Mérida.

### Mexico.

The two principal mountaineering journals in Mexico are *La Montaña*, organ of the Club de Exploraciones de Mexico, and *Alud*.

It is understood that publication of a Year-book is being considered. The Editor of *La Montaña*, Dr. M. Guzmán Peredo, has been appointed Mexican Correspondent of *A. J.* Artificial climbing is far more developed in Mexico than in other Andean countries, to judge by the photographs and descriptions of routes in these two publications.

T. CROMBIE.

## MOUNTAINEERING JOURNALS

*Les Alpes*. 1960. No. 1. This number is devoted to the C. A. S. 1959 expedition to the Andes. Every aspect of the expedition is dealt with and there are the usual excellent illustrations, some of them in colour, and several sketch maps.

No. 2. 'Über vulkanische Bergpfade auf den Canaren': by M. M. Blumenthal. 'Étoiles sur les Mischabel': by B. Baur. 'Le "Tour de la Bernina"': by W. Liesch. 'Les Alpes orobiennes': by G. Ritter. 'Dans la Terre de Feu, au temps de l'Avent': by H.-R. Katz. 'L'Action libératrice de la Montagne': by E. Wyss-Dunant. 'Vacances chamoniardes': by F. Mattern. 'Alpes Juliennes': by H. Nicole. 'Première ascension directe de la Pointe Alexandre du Ruwenzori par la paroi ouest (Congo)': by P. Ghiglione. 'Le Cheval blanc de l'Argentine': by F. Trembley.

No. 3. 'La face nord du Triglav': by F. Largiadèr. 'Derniers problèmes': by K. Lukan. 'Paroi nord du Mont Blanc de Cheilon': by K. Diemberger. 'La "Gita Blanda": Sustenhorn': by P. A. Giugni. 'Zur Philosophie und Metaphysik des Bergsteigens': by S. Walcher. 'Grand Combin de Valsorey, face nord-ouest': by E. Vanis. 'Trois jours sur le Pilier Walker des Grandes Jorasses': by W. Stefan. 'Jubiläum in Engelberg': by W. Müller-Hill. 'Le Popocatepetl, la montagne fumante': by R. Mathys. 'Une randonnée dans le groupe de Ferwal': by E. Schimpf. 'Première hivernale des Dents Rouges du Gspaltenhorn': by P.-H. Girardin. 'Les variations des glaciers suisses 1958-1959': by A. Renaud. 'Victor Hugo alpiniste': by L. Lathion.

No. 4. 'Le ski en Australie': by G. F. J. Bergman. 'Dans le massif du Mont Blanc': by A. Bollinger. 'Vers le Kilimandjaro': by F. Lörtscher. 'Tra leggenda e storia a Saas-Fee': by F. Cavazzani. 'Dans le Caucase en 1958': by E. Eidher. 'Excursions à Sainte-Hélène': by E. Brunner. 'A gué à travers la Tungnaá (Islande)': by H. Nünlist. 'Une ascension dans les Asturies': by C.-M. Briquet. 'Pilier sud du Mont Aiguille': by R. Gilliéron. 'A ski dans le royaume du Piz Bernina': by P. Metzker. 'Ski de tourisme au Liban': by J.-L. Seylaz. 'Le Val d'Hérens et le Val d'Anniviers avant le temps de l'alpinisme': by L. Seylaz.

*La Montagne et Alpinisme*. 1960. FEBRUARY. P. Habran gives an account of an expedition to the Caucasus in 1959. Among the party's ascents were Jangi Tau by the North buttress and Dych Tau by the left-hand South buttress, said to be the most difficult rock climb in the Caucasus.

R. Ollivier writes of the Marcadau, a paradise for skiers in the

Pyrenees, as yet unspoiled by ski-lifts, téléphériques or other aids. Alain de Chatellus discusses the question 'l'Alpiniste, est-il courageux?' and Jeanne Franco pays tribute to Madame Claude Kogan, who was killed on Cho Oyu.

APRIL. C. Maestri tells the story of the first ascent of the redoubtable Cerro Torre in Patagonia and the fatal accident to Toni Egger.

Climbs on the Pic de Bartagne near Marseilles are described by Georges Livanos and Pierre Henry reviews the climbing career of Henri Cordier. We wish that M. Henry had quoted the authority for his interesting and surprising statement that Coolidge made an early attempt on the then unclimbed Couloir Cordier on the Aiguille Verte.

JUNE. One of the greatest feats of winter mountaineering was the ascent, in March 1960, of the North-west face of L'Olan. The story of this remarkable climb, which involved four bivouacs, is recounted by René Desmaison.

Maurice Lenoir takes us to the Alps of Faucigny; formerly regarded as a training ground for greater expeditions, these limestone peaks provide for rock climbers many fine routes, some of which are numbered among the most difficult ascents in the French Alps.

Claude Boulevard's article about the Tatra may inspire British climbers to visit a range which has been the subject of a mere half-dozen papers in the pages of the *Alpine Journal*.

OCTOBER. In the opening article Jean Franco writes about the skiing events in the Olympic games at Squaw Valley.

In 1947 a committee was set up in France to co-ordinate and mark out various paths throughout the country, the 'sentiers de grande randonnée', or GR. Not all of these are in the alpine regions but Roger Beaumont gives some information about two that are of particular interest to mountain walkers, the Tour du Mont Blanc, and GR 5 which, in its alpine portion, runs from the Lake of Geneva to the Alpes Maritimes.

Toni Hiebeler, in 'la face inconnue', describes the ascent of the East face of the Cima del Bancon in the Civetta massif and in the last article are some details of the construction of the new Albert 1<sup>er</sup> and Grands Mulets refuges.

The information given about the first ascent of Annapurna II, in the note on p. 294, is not correct.

DECEMBER. An account of the successful Dhaulagiri expedition is given by Michel Vaucher who, with H. Weber, made the ascent ten days after the first party.

Vincent Paschetta has an article about skiing at Auron; this is the leading skiing-resort of the Alpes Maritimes, situated at about 5,250 ft. above sea-level, sixty miles from Nice. Robert Ollivier describes some climbs in the Pedraforca group of the Pyrenees.

The next article is probably of more interest to spelaeologists than mountaineers and is an account of explorations in the caves beneath the Marguareis, the culminating point of a massif on the frontier between France and Italy some forty miles from Nice.

*Osterreichische Alpenzeitung*. 1960. No. 1309. Three Dolomite *direttissima* routes are described by Diether Marchart, the North face of the Grosse Zinne (Cima Grande di Lavaredo), the Rotwand, and the North face of the Westliche Zinne. Herr Marchart ranks the first of these as the most difficult.

Hubert Peterka gives the second part of his monograph of the Zwölferkofel, with several sketches showing the various routes on the mountain, and Herbert Tichy briefly summarises his 1959 Himalayan-Karakoram journey.

In No. 1310 the opening article, by S. Walcher, describes the ascents of the Pic de l'Étendard and the Grand Sauvage in the chain of the Grandes Rousses and this is followed by the final instalment of Hubert Peterka's history of the Zwölferkofel.

No. 1311 includes the German translation of an article by Dr. E. Wyss-Dunant, 'Progrès techniques et conquête des 8,000 m.', first published in *Les Alpes* in 1957, and an account by Dietrich Hasse of an ascent of the Rotwand by the Hermann Buhl Gedächtnis Weg.

In No. 1312 Rolf Werner, in a note on the ascents of Dhaulagiri and Distaghil Sar, summarises the Austrian achievements in the Himalayas; four of the eight-thousanders were first climbed by Austrian parties and, in addition, Kurt Diemberger was one of those who reached the summit of Dhaulagiri. 'Die Söhne der neuen Zeit', by Hubert Peterka, is an interesting account of the history of the Gross Glockner from 1850 onwards and of the rivalry that developed between the men of Kals and Heiligenblut to find the most popular route up the mountain.

This number also includes the obituary of Heinrich Roiss, whose article on the first ascent of Haramosh was published in *A. J.* 64. 12.

No. 1313. Ernst Reiss contributes an article about the C. A. S. expedition to the Andes in 1959, which is dealt with at greater length in *Les Alpes*, No. 1, 1960, and there are accounts of the ceremonies at the inauguration of the new Haindlkar and Erzherzog Johann huts.

The one article in No. 1314 is an account by Kurt Diemberger of the third complete traverse of the Peuterey arête, commencing with the South ridge of the Aiguille Noire, to the summit of Mont Blanc. This great expedition was first carried out by the Germans R. Hechtel and G. Kittelmann in 1953 and repeated by a Polish party in 1957.

There is also a list of new ascents in the Eastern Alps.